

What is claimed is:

1. A clip for sheet materials comprising:
a clip member defining a hinge portion, first and second finger
5 portions extending from the hinge portion, and a ratchet
portion formed on at least one of the first and second finger
portions, where
the clip member is made of resilient material such that the
clip member may be deformed from a normally open
10 configuration into a closed position, and
the first and second finger portions do not engage each other
when the clip member is in the open configuration and
the first and second finger portions engage each other
when the clip member is in the closed position; and
15 a collar member defining a latch portion, a lever portion, a latch
opening, and a housing interior, where
the collar member is made of resilient material such that
applying a force to the lever portion causes the collar
member to deform from a normally engaged
20 configuration to a disengaged configuration, and
the latch portion extends into the housing interior through the
latch opening when the collar member is in the
engaged configuration and is withdrawn from the
housing interior through the latch opening when the
25 collar member is in the disengaged configuration;
whereby
the clip member extends through the housing interior such that
when the collar member is in a first position relative to the
clip member, the clip member is in the open
30 configuration;
when the collar member is in a second position relative to the
clip member, the collar member acts on the clip
member to place the clip member in the closed
configuration; and

when the collar member is in the engaged configuration, the latch portion engages the ratchet portion to allow movement of the collar member towards the second position and inhibit movement of the collar member towards the first position, and

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when the collar member is in the disengaged configuration, the collar member may move between the first and second positions.

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2. A clip member as recited in claim 1, in which:
the collar member further comprises a belt portion; and
the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively; whereby
when the collar member is in the second position, the belt portion
extends around the first and second finger portions at a
15 location adjacent to the first and second gripping portions.

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3. A clip member as recited in claim 1, in which:
the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively; and
at least one of the first and second gripping portions defines a line notch adapted to receive an edge line of the sheet material.

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4. A clip member as recited in claim 1, in which:
the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively;
at least one of the first and second gripping portions defines a line notch adapted to receive an edge line of the sheet material;
and
the first and second gripping portions define at least one line tooth;
whereby
the line tooth defines at least a portion of a line projection adapted
to engage the edge line of the sheet material.

5. A clip member as recited in claim 4, in which:
the first and second gripping portions define first and second line
notches, respectively; and
the first and second gripping portions define first and second line
teeth, respectively; whereby
the first and second line teeth define a line projection adapted to
engage the edge line of the sheet material.
- 10 6. A clip member as recited in claim 1, in which:
the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping
portions, respectively;
the first and second gripping portions define first and second sets of
gripping teeth, where the gripping teeth each define first and
second slanted surfaces and teeth points; whereby
15 when the clip member is in the closed configuration, at least some
of the teeth points of the teeth in the first set engage slanted
surfaces of the teeth in the second set.
- 20 7. A clip member as recited in claim 1, in which:
the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping
portions, respectively;
the first and second gripping portions define first and second sets of
gripping teeth, where the gripping teeth are curved; whereby
when the clip member is in the closed configuration, the gripping
25 teeth engage the sheet material.
8. A method of gripping sheet materials comprising the steps
of:
providing a clip member made of resilient material and defining a
30 hinge portion, first and second finger portions extending from
the hinge portion, and a ratchet portion;
providing a collar member made of resilient material and defining a
latch portion, a lever portion, a latch opening, and a housing
interior;

arranging the clip member within the housing interior of the collar member such that the collar member may be in first and second positions relative to the clip member, where, when the collar member is in the first position, the clip member is in an open configuration in which the first and second finger portions are not forced towards each other and, when the collar member is in the second position, the collar member forces the first and second finger portions towards each other to place the clip member in a closed configuration;

configuring the collar member such that the collar member is normally in an engaged configuration in which the latch portion extends into the housing interior through the latch opening and applying a force on the lever portion of the collar member places the collar member in a disengaged configuration in which the latch portion is withdrawn from the housing interior through the latch opening;

arranging the sheet material between the first and second finger portions; and

placing the clip member in the second position and the latch portion in the engaged configuration such that latch portion engages ratchet portion and the first and second finger portions grip the sheet material.

25 9. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the steps
of:
 placing the latch portion in the disengaged configuration such that
 the latch portion does not engage the ratchet portion; and
 releasing the sheet material by moving the collar member into the
 first position to allow the first and second finger portions to
 move away from each other.
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10. A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising the steps of forming first and second gripping portions, respectively.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the steps of forming a line notch is adapted to receive an edge line of the sheet material on at least one of the first and second gripping portions.

5 12. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of forming first and second sets of gripping teeth on the first and second gripping portions, respectively.

10 13. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of forming first and second sets of curved gripping teeth on the first and second gripping portions, respectively.